

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 26, 1909, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Washington, D.C.
Nov. 26, 1909. My dear Alec:

Thank you for your birthday telegram. It wasn't a very bright day and I wanted to forget it all, but the telegram from you I knew would come.

I feel troubled about your eyes and wish I were with you or rather you with me. I am afraid I am not very anxious to be in Beinn Bhreagh now. I hate to leave it always, but I am not fond of the cold and would much rather be here in winter. It's a pretty big testimony to my love for Beinn Bhreagh that I stay there in winter at all. I am so glad that you want or rather are willing I should have the Court.

It seems I shall get about \$6000. a year from my share of the estate certainly and eventually about ten thousand.

Daisy and David are much worked up on the Plant Utilization Society, but David finds it hard to make up his mind to leave his work in the Department. He feels I think that he could not undertake the Society without some means of support and I can not see myself why he should give his whole time to the Society without pay. "A laborer is worthy of his hire". He doesn't see how he can make inquiries regarding the cost of running a magazine without exciting suspicion and he is extremely anxious that no breath of our idea should get abroad. If we ask Bert he would later understand the motive of our questions and 2 might resent not being taken into confidence. This is David's idea. I don't think so, for I know Bert has projects he has asked me not to mention to David, but I can't tell David this. However Mr. Booth says it costs him \$150. a number to get out the Review, so David calculates that \$6000. would cover all the deficit for the first year exclusive of his

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salary, which if fixed at what he now has would be \$2700 more. He says that he and Daisy together have about \$5500. now, which is very little for life in Washington nowadays. In fact Mrs. Kennan once told me that she and Mr. Kennan could not live there as they should live on less than \$6000. a year and that is for just the two of them. David says Bert's salary is \$6000.00 and Elsie must have pretty nearly as much again in consequence of the investments Bert has made of her money.

Now of course David and Daisy have only two children against Elsie's five, but if they are to undertake this Society they have to entertain and dress and that means a great deal of money. They could live on \$3000.00 in the country or on even less, but that is not what we want for them. David thinks that with you to push and help him as you have done Bert and the boys he could make a success of the Society, but he would absolutely require your help in starting it.

Dr. and Mrs. Grenfell are here and Daisy and Robert Marsh have gone to hear him lecture. I suppose they will want to stop and see you and get the sledge. Won't you please have it ready.

Much love, Mabel.